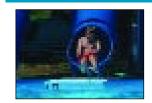
SECAF lauds Barksdale's part in war on terror

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Base pools open for the summer Page 13



May fitness month comes to a close

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Observer

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June 6, 2003

News Briefs

Commander's call

A 2d Bomb Wing Commander's Call is scheduled for Thursday at 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. The first event is primarily for shift workers.

All military members and civilian employees are encouraged to attend the commander's call.

Retirement

Lt. Col. Daniel Gates, 2d Bomb Wing Command Post, retires today at 4 p.m. in Hangar Two.

Vehicle removal

Vehicles on base that have been cited as abandoned by the 2d Security Forces Squadron must be removed from the base as soon as possible. Most of these are parked by the Auto Hobby Shop. All vehicles not removed will be towed off base and turned over to an off-base junk yard.

Supervisors of deployed people who own any of these vehicles should contact 2d SFS Investigations at 456-2148 for further instructions.

DUI UPDATE

May 26 — June 2: None Total DUIs this year to date: 15 Total DUIs for 2002: 43

Airmen Against Drunk Driving 456-3344

Potential saves this year: 590 Potential saves 2002: 804

Today

Mostly cloudy



Saturday Mostly cloudy

Sunday Partly cloudy



Troops return

STAFF SGT. JEREMY LARLEE OBSERVER

Team Barksdale welcomed home about 200 of its returning warriors Sunday and Tuesday as more people returned to the base after supporting various deployments.

Wing leadership stated it was good to see people return.

"There is nothing better then seeing our warriors return home," said Col. Chuck McGuirk, 2d Bomb Wing vice commander. "We can't wait until everyone is back."

Krista Peterson was ecstatic to see her husband, Staff Sgt. James Peterson, return after his six-month deployment.

"It's a relief to have him back. We have two children and it will be so nice to have some help with them. It has been so long I was even a little bit nervous," she said.

The Peterson's youngest child is only 10 months old.

"I was away from my youngest for more of his life than I was with him. Being home with my wife and kids is definitely the best thing about coming home. They are the reason I do what I do." said

More than 650 people from Barksdale are still deployed supporting various Aerospace Expeditionary Force require-



Airman 1st Class Kevin Camara/2d CS

Staff Sgt. Jeremy Stutes, 96th Aircraft Maintenance Unit, gets a warm welcome home from his fiance Debra Aaron and her daughter Alexandra. About two hundred deployed Barksdale people returned to the base Sunday and Tuesday.

Air Force officials set promotion release dates

AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — The Air Force plans to release its list of new technical and master sergeant promotions June 26 (June 27 for those units across the international date line). The list of new staff sergeant promotions will be released Aug. 13 (Aug. 14 for those units across the international date line).

The lists of those selected for promotion will be available on the Air Force Personnel Center's home page by 4:30 p.m. CDT June 27 and Aug. 14, respectively.

The announcements were delayed from the originally scheduled dates to allow as many deployed airmen as possible to be considered in the regular promotion cycles. The delays will

have no effect on the promotion effective dates: Aug. 1 for technical and master sergeants and Sept. 1 for staff sergeants.

"Waiting to find out if you've been selected for promotion can be nerve-racking, and we know that," said Chief Master Sgt. Mark Billingsley, chief of the enlisted promotions branch here. "But we want to give everyone the opportunity they deserve to make promotion this year. By waiting to make selections we can consider more people.

'Our goal is to try and mirror, as closely as possible, a list where 100 percent of the eligibles had been able to test in the normal timeframe," said Billingsley. "This delay will help ensure the Weighted Airman Promotion System continues to be fair and equitable for all airmen competing for promotion."

News Briefs

Vehicle decals

The 2d Security Forces Squadron now has base vehicle decals. All active duty, Reserve, retired and military family members who are registering their vehicles for the first time or replacing temporary passes need to show a valid driver's license, vehicle registration and insurance at the time of registration at the Pass and Registration office. The office is open Mondays through Fridays, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call 456-4292 for details.

Committee meeting

The Hispanic Heritage Committee meets the second Tuesday of each month. The next meeting takes place Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. at Trejos Mexican Restaurant off Shreveport-Barksdale Hwy.

Call Senior Master Sgt. Rudy Ruelas at 456-2211 for details.

Office closure

The office of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in the education building closes June 13-22. It will re-open June 23.

For more information, call Ricardo Rivera at 456-2272.

Luncheon

The Honor Guard luncheon takes place June 13 at 11 a.m. in the officers club. Tickets cost \$10 for club members and \$11 for non-club members.

Interested people can contact their first sergeants for tickets and for more information.

ALS activities

Barksdale's Airman Leadership School Class 03-E will host a graduation banquet June 19 in the enlisted club. Cocktails start at 6 p.m., and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. Attire for the event is mess dress for officers, mess dress or semi-formal for enlisted and casual evening wear for civilians. 2d Bomb Wing Command Chief Master Sgt. Joe Lavigne will be the guest speaker.

Call the school at 456-3298 or contact a student for tickets.

The class' drill presentation takes place June 18 at 2:30 p.m. on the drill pad in front of the academic building. The chiefs vs. students volleyball game takes place June 18 at 3:30 p.m. in the ALS gym.

Change of command

Maj. Nathan Mooney II relinquishes command of the 2d Maintenance Operations Squadron June 26 at 10 a.m. in the officers club to Maj. William Stahl Jr.

Secretary lauds base's part in waging war on terrorism

By Master Sgt. Rick Delahaya

EIGHTH AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

"Spectacular" and "remarkable" were the words of the day as the Air Force's top civilian spoke to a packed house attending a commander's call here May 29.

Secretary of the Air Force, Dr. James G. Roche, stopped by to personally thank the troops that took part in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, discuss transformation, and the changing role of Eighth Air Force.

Roche visited Barksdale at the request of Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson, 8th Air Force commander, to call attention to the unique mission of the "Mighty Eighth" and highlight successes during the war in Iraq. During his two-day visit, the secretary received briefings on the integration of information operations into the numbered air force, mission briefings, and various tours around the base.

"It is my great honor to be here today with you, the men and women of Barksdale Air Force Base," said Roche. "In the past 20 months since our war on terrorism began, the capabilities delivered from Barksdale have been spectacular. You have played a vital and decisive role in our victories in Afghanistan and Iraq and have kept America safe. I applaud each and every one of you."

During his comments to the members of the 2nd Bomb Wing, the 917th Wing and 8th Air Force, Roche highlighted some of their accomplishments since September 11 and said that they were nothing short of "spectacular." He pointed to the high deployment rates, flying hours, sorties flown and numbers of munitions dropped, and mission capable rates as proof their commitment to excellence.

"You really have been at the forefront on the war on terrorism," he said. "Your service to this country and the Air Force has

been remarkable and you have been a key part of America's protection forces. And you have done this while supporting the mission at home, providing first-class support to the space shuttle recovery efforts and winning more than 40 organizational awards."

The secretary also briefly touched on transformation, saying that it's a buzzword he likes to use sparingly. Transformation, he said, is actually taking systems you already have and using them in interesting and unique ways. The B-52, for example, is one weapons platform whose mission and combat role has been changing, especially since the war on terrorism began.

"You are doing this with the toys of your fathers," he said jokingly. "The platform is old, but the thinking is advanced. You keep coming up with firsts, whether it be adding a new mission such as close air support, using the Litening II targeting pod and time-sensitive targeting, you are proving what we could only hope for and that is truly remarkable."

Secretary Roche also received briefings on the changing face of 8th Air Force and how information operations are integrating into the combat air forces. During the war in Iraqi, for example, 8th Air Force played a huge role in the success of the campaign, he said. This was due to how well platforms such as AWACS, Joint Stars, the U-2 and Compass Call were integrated into the overall battle plan. He highlighted this by describing how well different systems were tied together during a particular troop movement.

"When the Iraqis started moving a mechanized unit, we had no advanced knowledge of this, but had a Joint Stars in the area," he explained. "They passed along the information to the Combined Air Operations Center and was later targeted by a pair of B-52's. We were able to pick this all up at night and through a sandstorm. Needless to say it was the last time they (the Iraqis) tried to move units at night. And this was all attributed to how well all these different assets and systems were integrated together."

AMC replaces Phoenix Readiness training

BY STAFF SGT. CHRISTIN MICHAUD 305TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FORT DIX, N.J. — Air Mobility Command's Phoenix Readiness combat training has ended and will be replaced in October by the Air Force's expeditionary combat-support training program, Eagle Flag.

The training cadre at the Air Mobility Warfare Center here are excited about Eagle Flag.

"It's exciting for us to be evolving into a flag-level school," said Lt. Col. Michael Dickey, 421st Training Squadron commander who is in charge

of the course. "It means taking our world-class training up a notch and helping the Air Force improve its expeditionary capabilities."

Phoenix Readiness was a two-week training course that prepared airmen and other Department of Defense forces to open and establish forward-operating bases similar to what was recently done in Southwest Asia. That mission will not change.

"We will continue to lead the way, preparing the Air Force for expeditionary operations," said Dickey. "But now to a much broader student base — the entire Air Force."

One of the advantages of the Phoenix Readiness course was the opportunity to receive training and then apply it in the field the following week.

First Lt. Allan Rich, from the 821st Air Mobility Squadron at McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., attended the course two years ago and then again recently after returning from Iraq.

"The course has improved 600 percent since the last time I came," he said. "They've done a good job of trying to equate it to (the) real world. I'm very impressed with the differences, and it's only going to get better with Eagle Flag."

Observer *

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Quality-of-life survey results are in, show increase in satisfaction with AF

STAFF SGT. A.J. BOSKER AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS

WASHINGTON — The results of the 2002 Chief of Staff Quality-of-Life Survey have been compiled and show an increase in satisfaction with the Air Force as a job and way of life, survey officials said.

The survey, sent to more than 100,000 active-duty airmen and civilian employees in September, included questions about the job, career intent and quality-of-life priorities such as manpower, work environment and compensation, said Shontelle Rivers, chief of the Air Force quality-of-life program at the Pentagon.

Charles Hamilton, chief of the Air Force Personnel Center's survey branch at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, said the 2002 survey shows increased satisfaction, virtually across the board.

"The (survey) responses were more positive than the 2000 survey," Hamilton said. "And career intent was up among all demographic groups."

Overall, 90 percent of airmen, including pilots, and 89 percent of civilians believe the Air Force is a good place to work and 81 percent of military and 91 percent of civilians report that their families are supportive of their careers, Rivers said. The responses are each higher than the previous two survey results.

The survey also showed that career intent increased among all groups from previous years, she said. Nearly 75 percent of all officers, 66 percent of the enlisted force and 82 percent of civilians report they will make the Air Force a career.

However, a common quality-of-life concern among all groups surveyed was manpower, Hamilton said.

Nonpilot officers and civilians ranked manpower as their No. 1 concern while pilots and enlisted airmen said operations tempo, and compensation and benefits, respectively, were their top two concerns.

More than one-third of all commanders and first sergeants who took the survey also reported manpower as their top quality-of-life concern, Rivers said.

"Nearly one-half of the people reported that they feel there are too few people in the workplace to get the job done, and the majority of military airmen and half of the civilians reported they are performing additional duties," Hamilton explained.

Survey results indicate officers spend 7.9 hours per week, and enlisted members 8.3 hours per week, on additional duties. Civilians reported spending 3.3 hours per week on additional duties.

In spite of these numbers, the 2002 survey showed a 2.6-hour reduction in the average military workweek from the 2000 survey. Civilians reported a two-hour increase in their workweek.

Although the 2002 survey showed between an 11 percent and 46 percent decrease among the various demographic groups in the number of people who believed the military retirement system was unfair, it also highlighted another worry for personnel officials Nearly 70 percent of company grade pilots, 49 percent of company grade nonpilots, 89 percent of first-term airmen and 60 percent of second-term airmen reported they do not know which retirement system applies to them.

"I advise anyone who doesn't know which plan applies to them to talk to their supervisor, first sergeant, commander or finance office," Rivers said. "Our family support center financial advisers can also help point people in the right direction."

In light of these numbers, Rivers also encouraged supervisors, first sergeants and commanders to talk to their people about their retirement options.

"The goal of the surveys isn't to report only the good points," she said. "We take these surveys seriously and use the information, both positive and negative, to focus our efforts to help people and improve their quality of life. The information gathered from this survey will be used by senior leaders to make the service a better way of life for all Air Force men and women and their families."

News Briefs

Retirement

A dinner for Chief Master Sgt. Gary Moore, 2d Maintenance Group, takes place June 26 in the enlisted club at 6 p.m. and his retirement ceremony takes place June 27 in the officers club ballroom at 9 a.m. Call Master Sgt. Pat Norris at 456-5373 for more information.

Summer academy

The STARBASE summer academy scheduled for June 23-27 is for students entering grades 6-7 in the fall of 2003.

From 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., students will focus on aviation and enjoy hands-on experiments, computers, rocketry, flight simulators and robotics. Pre-registration is underway and requires a form and an essay written by the student and signed by his teacher.

Forms are available at STAR-BASE. Call 456-1300/1315 for more information.

Change of command

Lt. Col. Robert Fant relinquishes command of the 2d Civil Engineer Squadron July 11 at 10 a.m. in the officers club. Lt. Col. Steven Hammock, 718th Civil Engineer Squadron, Kadena Air Base, Japan, assumes command. Call 2nd Lt. Robert Lane at 456-5257 for more information.

Summer volunteers

Barksdale's Red Cross Youth Program seeks teens age 13-17 for volunteer work until Aug. 31. Call Lindsey Fertitta at 865-9545 for more information.

Meeting

The next Team 56 meeting takes place Wednesday at 3 p.m. in the enlisted club. All technical sergeants, staff sergeants and staff-selects are encouraged to attend. Call Tech. Sgt. Barb Lavigne at 456-5502 for more information.

Office hours

DRMO Barksdale is open Tuesdays through Thursdays, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. DRMO Barksdale will not be open for turn-ins on Mondays and Fridays. Call James Callahan at 456-8216 for more information.

Increases

An increase in imminent danger pay from \$150 to \$225 and family separation allowance from \$100 to \$250 are effective Oct. 1, 2002 and will apply with respect to months beginning on or after that date.



Courtesy photo

Senior Airmen Luke Allen (left) and Rusty Youngblood, Air Force countersnipers deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, got what they call "the chance of a lifetime" Sunday when they embarked on an offensive combat mission with the Army's 82nd Airborne Division.

Air Force countersnipers go offensive

By Tech. Sgt. Eric Grill

455TH EXPEDITIONARY OPERATIONS GROUP PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Two Air Force security forces airmen deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, got what they called, "the chance of a lifetime," Sunday when they embarked on a combat patrol in eastern Afghanistan with the Army's 82nd Airborne Division.

Senior Airmen Luke Allen and Rusty Youngblood, both 820th Security Forces Squadron countersnipers at Moody Air Force Base, Ga., are deployed to the 455th Expeditionary Operations Group to defend Air Force Village in the event of an attack on Bagram. They said they believe this is the first time Air Force countersnipers and the Army have paired up in a combat mission.

The two countersnipers got their chance for the offensive mission when an 82nd Airborne's patrol needed a couple of extra marksmen. The airmen had already worked with the Army on scout missions around the outskirts of the base, but not in an actual combat mission.

Their mission was to provide longrange reconnaissance, target acquisition and neutralization of any Al-Qaida or anti-coalition forces target of opportunity.

"We were a little apprehensive at first," said Youngblood, who attended the Air Force Countersniper School at Camp Joseph T. Robinson in Arkansas in December. "Training is training, but when you're going into combat, you're always a little apprehensive. But, at the same time, I was excited and wanted to go kick some (butt)."

Both airmen said that there was some of the usual banter between the two rival services, like everyone referring to the duo as "those Air Force snipers." But, when it came time to perform the mission, it was all business.

The first contact with enemy forces came Monday, when six 107 mm rockets were fired toward the patrol in the area of Takurghal, the same area where Operation Anaconda took place. In that March 2002 battle, two airmen, Tech. Sgt. John Chapman and Senior Airman Jason Cunningham, and six other Americans were killed.

"At first we saw a flash off in the distance, and we were trying to figure out what the flash was," Youngblood said. "Then we heard the incoming artillery and took cover."

One of those rockets hit the ground about 300 meters from the patrol's location.

The patrol was on a mountain peak about 11,000 feet above sea level. Allen said after the rocket attack, he ran to the end of the peak and positioned himself where he had full view of the entire area. Using night-vision goggles, he found the enemy forces about 3,000 meters away — too far for his M-24, single-shot rifle. Close-air support was called in and provided by Danish F-16s, Air Force AC-130 gunships and Army Apache helicopters.

The patrol spotted three different groups of enemy forces, totaling about 15 people, Allen said, and chased them for a little while.

They got as close as 1,000 meters,

Youngblood said, but no contact was actually made.

There was another rocket attack on the pair's patrol the next morning, where a second rocket landed within a few hundred meters of the pair's position.

"I was just hoping that those rockets wouldn't land on us," Allen said.

Describing the experience as more surreal than a life-and-death experience, Allen said the combat mission "felt more like a game or a training exercise," but also said he took what he was doing very seriously.

"You can never be trained enough for these missions, but the soldiers we were working with were exceptionally trained," he said.

There were no coalition injuries reported in either of the rocket attacks, Youngblood said.

"I would definitely do it again, no questions asked," Allen said. "It was a great opportunity, and I'm happy that the Army let us go along with them."

For Youngblood, this was his opportunity to use the training that Air Force and Army instructors provided.

"Between countersniper school and follow-on training, we were prepared for this mission," Youngblood said. "In security forces training, we use Army field manuals and teach Army maneuvers. To actually come over here and use the training in an offensive mission is what I was hoping for.

"I would love to do it again," he said. The countersnipers might get that chance as they continue to do scout missions in defense of the base.

Virtual MPF

Air Force simplifies travel-payment processing

STAFF SGT. A.J. BOSKER

AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS

WASHINGTON — The Air Force has automated the process of filing travel-accrual payment requests for military travelers, making it available on the Virtual Military Personnel Flight Web page.

"This should simplify the process not only for the traveler but also deployed and home-station financial services offices," said Chief Master Sgt. Larry Gonzales, executive for enlisted matters to the assistant secretary of the Air Force for financial management and comptroller at the Pentagon.

Better customer service

According to Gonzales, the result is better customer service for the traveler while reducing the workload for deployed financial services office workers and improving payment accountability for home-station offices.

In the past, travelers who incurred charges en route to their temporary duty or deployment location had to fill out an accrual-payment worksheet and provide it to their home station financial services office, he said.

Many travelers often had to rely on assistance from deployed financial services offices to fax or email the worksheet back to their home-station office for processing, he said.

"Because of technological challenges in some de-

ployed locations, deployed finance offices often had to have one person fully dedicated to just faxing accrual-payment worksheets back to home stations," the chief explained.

Even when the lines were working, Gonzales said there were no guarantees that the home-station financial services offices, because of the difference in time zones, received the worksheets. The traveler often had to return to the deployed office or try to call their home station to find out if their accrual-payment request was successfully received and processed.

Convenient

The new secure Web-based process on vMPF is much more convenient, he said.

Travelers can now complete their worksheet when they want and on any computer with internet access, Gonzales said

Once it has been sent, the traveler can rest assured that their home-station financial services office received and processed their request and issued the accrual payment. The payment can be made to the traveler's account or to their government travel card as directed.

"Although filling out the worksheet on vMPF is the preferred way for travelers to submit their accrual worksheets, because of real-world limitations, worksheets can still be faxed or sent via e-mail," the chief explained.

Virtual Military Personnel Flight

For more information on the vMPF, visit https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil and click on virtual MPF.

Continuing improvements

The Air Force had been struggling for a while to find a way to improve the travel-accrual payment process for travelers, Gonzales said. There was not a quick solution in sight until Air Force finance officials heard about what officials at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, had developed.

"They created a Web-based system to help their deployed members file their travel accrual-payment requests," he said. "We liked their idea and wanted to implement it Air Force-wide."

People from the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, were able to help, he said.

"Three weeks after telling AFPC what we wanted, the travel-accrual worksheet was available under vMPF for deployed and airmen (on temporary duty) to use worldwide," Gonzales said.

Although the Web-based process of submitting travel-accrual worksheets is currently limited to only military travelers, Air Force officials are working to offer the same service to civilians through the Virtual Civilian Personnel Flight Web site, he said.

Air Force assists earthquake-rattled city

BY 1ST LT. PHILLIP ULMER 86TH AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — Answering the need for help after a devastating earthquake, Air Force crews delivered more than seven and a half tons of relief supplies May 30 to the rattled city of Algiers, Algeria.

A 6.8-magnitude earthquake shook the coastal capital city of more than 2.3 million at 7:44 p.m. May 21. More than 2,300 people were killed and 10,000 injured by the earthquake and aftershocks. According to the U.S. Geological Service, the earthquake's epicenter was approximately 40 miles east of Algiers.

"People are suffering, and we're here to help," said Janet Sanderson, U.S. ambassador to Algeria.

"And this is a very visible symbol of American support," she said motioning to the relief supplies being unloaded from an Air Force Reserve C-130 Hercules from the 910th Airlift Wing at Youngstown, Ohio.

The C-130 crew is on temporary duty here supporting operations throughout the command's area of responsibility.

Among the American relief supplies flown in from Ramstein were medical

kits, blankets, sleeping bags, cots and tents.

"These supplies are critical to the relief effort," said Sanderson. "The earthquake left more than 200,000 people living in the streets, and our No. 1 concern is providing tents for shelter."

An American humanitarian-assistance survey team is assessing the situation.

"We're taking a look, and right now it looks like the greatest need is for supplies and equipment," said Lt. Col. Tim Marceau, survey team chief for 3rd Air Force at Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England.

It took nearly two hours in the midday heat for the 50 civil-response people to unload the pallets from the aircraft and move the supplies to waiting trucks. From there, the supplies will be given to those displaced by the earthquake.

"It's great to be a part of helping people," said Maj. Jeff Shaffer, a 910th AW navigator. "When we landed, we were greeted by a lot of smiling faces. It's a nice feeling knowing you're welcome."

According to the ambassador, homes, schools and hospitals were all destroyed, and the recovery will take some time; however, she said, the people of Algeria are very grateful for the American help and support.



Courtesy photo

Tech. Sgt. Michael Kimmel, a loadmaster, checks his load plans while Capt. Michelle Mollise co-pilots a C-130 Hercules carrying 15,000 pounds of humanitarian supplies bound for earthquake victims in Algeria. The reservists are deployed from the 773rd Airlift Squadron at Youngston, Ohio, to Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Mustapha Tourazi, a civil response officer, shook hands with the crew before they boarded their aircraft to return home. He has been living at the airport since the earthquake to meet the aircraft and unload the supplies when they arrive.

"Thank you, on behalf of all Algeria,"
Tourazi told the crew.

AEF meets the call for power

BY MAJ. GEN. TIMOTHY PEPPE SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR AIR AND SPACE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE MATTERS

Whether you were deployed to Southwest Asia launching wave after wave of aircraft, or at your home station working extra shifts to cover for those who were, you know that the global war on terrorism has required a massive Air Force effort.

But oftentimes I think it is hard to appreciate the full spectrum of operations our Air Force has participated in as part of the liberation of Iraq, the destruction of al-Qaida, the protection of our homeland skies, and the other recent operations in defense of our coun-

So I thought it would be helpful to provide a "strategic overview" of what the Air Force has been doing since Sept. 11, 2001. To do this, I'll discuss the large numbers of airmen involved, the air mobility assets used and the incredible combat support efforts undertaken to defend the United States.

Not since Desert Storm has the Air Force been called upon to amass as large a fighting force as it did for the global war on terrorism. The Air Force has responded magnificently to the call for air and space power after 9-11, drawing from an unprecedented six Air and Space Expeditionary Forces. Add to that the significant portion of our air mobility and other enabler forces, and you start to see the immense scope of already incredibly busy. our service's recent activities.

Although not everyone in each AEF was called upon to deploy, more than 120,000 airmen were involved and more than 50,000 deployed. And these were not just active duty, but Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve airmen as well.

That total-force effort was also seen on the home front, where almost 20,000 additional active, Guard and Reserve airmen kept our homeland secure, supporting Operation Noble Eagle on the mainland and in Alaska, Hawaii and

Of course, these war-fighting commitments didn't just affect those on the front lines. They affected the total Air Force community as home stations reduced services to its non-deployed members, families, Reservists and retirees. In some cases, the Army National Guard and U.S. overseas allies filled in for those deployed by providing security for air bases at home and abroad.

Among the large numbers of people fighting the war on terrorism are many who, prior to Operation Iraqi Freedom, were already operating at a high tempo. Airmen and equipment supporting the E-3 AWACs, E-8 Joint Stars, RC-135 Rivet Joint, U-2, Predator, Global Hawk and air mobility missions, as well as special operations airmen and combat search and rescue forces, were

Because of OIF, training programs for the people assigned to these missions were greatly reduced and, in some cases, stopped altogether due to lack of aircraft, aircrews and maintainers.

The global war on terrorism has also required some Herculean efforts by our air mobility team. Air Mobility Command's total force of active-duty and air-reserve-component forces continued an unrelenting pace that began Sept. 11, 2001, and built our globespanning en-route structure, moving people, equipment and supplies, as well as deploying Air Force fighters and bombers. This tremendous effort supported not only the Air Force, but also our sister services and coalition part-

Many of the people and much of the equipment and supplies AMC moved were part of the extensive combat support efforts the war on terror required. For example, the Air Force opened and operated an additional 18 expeditionary bases around the OIF area of operations, calling upon combat and combatsupport capabilities from many AEFs. In some cases, entire Air Force career fields were tapped out.

Opening these bases put pressure on AMC's tanker and airlift control elements and all of our combat support. After hostilities began, these TALCEs, along with assessment teams and contingency response units, also opened several bases inside Iraq.

The most recent campaign in our country's war against terror perfectly illustrates the might and power of the U.S. Air Force. As Operation Iraqi Freedom unfolded, the world watched as air power from the Air Force, Navy, Marines and Royal Air Force attacked Iraqi command and control with devastating precision.

The combination of air and space power, special operations and information operations ground down Iraqi forces, leaving them demoralized, disoriented and without effective command and control. As a result, coalition ground forces shattered Iraqi resistance wherever it was encountered.

While the giant-sized efforts of our Air Force are often exhausting and thankless, all airmen should be proud of what they have accomplished. Al-Qaida is in disarray, our homeland skies are safe, and the people of Iraq are finally tasting freedom. In the end, I think our Air Force chief of staff, Gen. John P. Jumper, said it best.

"As we begin the process of redeployment and reconstitution, we can all be proud of the total team effort," the general said. "Although the AEF may never be called upon in the future to simultaneously deploy people from six AEFs, we can all take great comfort in the knowledge that the AEF can, and will, respond successfully to any challenge our nation faces."

The Action Line is your avenue for complaints, suggestions and kudos on servicprovided at Barksdale. Your comments can help make the base a better place.

Although the Action Line is always available for use, the best and



Col. Floyd Carpenter 2d BW commander

fastest way to resolve problems is through your chain of command or the organization involved.

I encourage you to go that route first. Then, if you still can't resolve it or don't know where to call, I'll be glad to do it for you. I'd also like to hear the positive feedback on your experiences on base.

When calling the Action Line, the messages are recorded. Please leave your name and phone number so we can get back to you if we need more information.

You'll receive a reply in writing or by telephone. Items of general interest may be shared with the Barksdale community by publication in the Observer.

> Call the Action Line: 456-4000 or e-mail: actionline@barksdale.af.mil

uery: I've noticed that the speed limit signs for the Red Chute Bridge are very confusing and not standardized for both directions of traffic. Is there an extended "15 mph" period before or after the bridge, or is that 15 mph rule only for actual traffic on the bridge?

esponse: Thank you for your concerns about the speed limit signs on the bridge. The 15 mph signs for the bridge are temporary and, as you rightfully understood, just for the bridge. Our plan to repair the bridge has three phases.

The short-term phase to reduce wear and tear on the bridge was to restrict the speed, weight and number of vehicles crossing the bridge at any one time. The mid-term plan is to replace some of the pilings under the bridge and open it up for twoway traffic.

This contract has been awarded, and we are currently waiting for the water level to reside. The long-term plan is to rebuild the bridge. Our Civil Engineers have designed a new bridge and are currently waiting for funds.

Both the mid- and long-term plans may involve rerouting traffic while the contractors perform their work. As soon as we get details on those options, our Civil Engineers (CE) will publicize the new, temporary procedures via staff meetings and the Observer.

In the mean time, our traffic engineers will review the placement of the existing signs to determine if we should place additional signs to reduce confusion. If you have any other questions concerning facilities or base infrastructure, please contact the CE Customer Service personnel at 456-3071.

uery: I would like to commend the commissary at the customer service desk. A couple of weeks ago, my wife had a problem in the parking lot with one of the baggers mouthing off about us being in Iraq, and he was taking her bags. I went in the next day and reported this problem to the people.

Before I left the store, they called this bagger and his supervisor and assured me that this problem would be taken care of. I would like to commend the people at the commissary and I'm sure they told the baggers to keep their mouth shut about what we're doing in Iraq.

esponse: Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention. We do apologize for any inconvenience caused by this. Mr. Danielson, Store Administrator, has briefed all baggers to not engage in conversations offering their opinions to our valued customers. This is a customer courtesy issue and we hope this will not happen again.

Fluffy immigrates to U.S.

BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS STEPHANIE HAMMER 437th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE, S.C. — A German shepherd of Iraqi descent arrived here May 30 aboard a C-17 Globemaster III after putting his life on the line to guard U.S. special forces.

Fluffy, a dog from northern Iraq with visible scars, will retire at Fort Bragg, N.C., as an honorary military working dog.

When Fluffy first joined Sgt. 1st Class Russell Joyce, a special forces soldier and Fluffy's trainer, he weighed about 31 pounds and was missing his front two bottom teeth. But after only two weeks, he was put to work.

Fluffy, who takes no apparent offense to his unlikely name, was an "immeasurable success" as a military working dog.

"I asked the Kurdish (fighters) if we could have a dog," said Joyce. The Kurds brought him "Tariq Aziz," named after Iraq's deputy prime minister, but the name did not last long.

"I was joking around, and I said, 'you know what, I'm going to call him Fluffy. My dog's name is Fluffy," said Joyce. "One person started calling him that, myself, and two people started calling him that; it just stuck."

The full-breed shepherd began his career learning a few simple commands before becoming a guard and pursuit dog.

"Having a person on roving patrol is a great thing, but adding the sense of smell and the sense of hearing that a dog has really heightened the sense of awareness to early detection," said Joyce.

"He's been in harm's way and shot at more times than anyone on my team," Joyce said. "He proved himself to be a worthy asset. He means a lot to me because we definitely went through a lot over there together."

Eager for retirement, Fluffy arrived in the United States escorted by Maj. Jim Pompano from the 615th Air Mobility Squadron at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., who happened to be returning home from the area.

Pompano was able to make sure the dog's transition went smoothly.

We waited until all the t's were crossed and the i's were dotted and we had the proper paperwork, then we got the dog home," Pompano said. "I just happened to be leaving at the same time, so I decided the best thing I could do was just escort Fluffy (to the United States)."

Although Fluffy did not like the takeoff or landing much, Pompano said he did pretty well on the flight home.

"I talked to Fluffy just like I would talk to anyone else," he said. "He was pretty well trained, and I didn't have any problems there."

Fluffy was greeted on the flightline by his supporters who sent hundreds of e-mails, letters and made phone calls supporting his safe immigration to the United States

"I think that America as a whole had a big hand in this, and it's really a gift from the United States to me and a gift to Fluffy to be able to come home," said Joyce. "This dog really gets the opportunity for a fresh start here."



Courtesy photo

Army Sgt. 1st Class Russell Joyce is reunited with his former partner, Fluffy, on the flightline here. Fluffy put his life on the line guarding U.S. special forces and received permission to immigrate to the United States.



Summer Bible camp

Children ages 5 to 11 are invited to attend summer Bible camp at the Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1106 Shreveport/Barksdale Hwy, during the month of June.

It will be each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in June from 9 a.m. to noon. It will begin with breakfast and follow with a Bible lesson, arts, crafts, songs and games. Call Audrey Brown at 747-9417 for more information.

Adopt an animal

The Bossier City Animal Control Center has pets available for adoption every second Saturday of each month at PETCO, 6596 Youree Dr., and the fourth Saturday of each month at K-mart, 3045 E. Texas St.

People are invited to come out and adopt a dog or cat, including puppies and kittens.

Bridge

Duplicate Bridge games take place Mondays through Saturdays at 1 p.m., Sundays at 1:30 p.m. and Monday and Thursday nights at 7 p.m. at the Bridge House on the corner of Bert Kouns and E. Kings Hwy. Lessons begin Tuesday at 6 and 9 p.m. and continue once a week for eight weeks. Call Pat Conley at 797-4324 for more information.





CLEP testing

The following exams will be retired effective June 30: General Exam on Humanities and Subject Exams on Chemistry, German, Biology, Western Civilization I and Western Civilization II. Although these exams will be available at national testing centers beginning July 1, they will be on a self-pay basis.

Transcripts

Effective July 1, CCAF transcripts can only be ordered through the Air Force Virtual Education Center at https://afvec.langley.af.mil/afvec. In addition, CCAF will only accept college transcripts directly from your school.

Air War College

Recruitment has begun for the next AWC seminar. Eligible lieutenant colonels and selects should call Hames Merryman at 456-4918 for more information. The seminar begins in early August and continues through June 2004.



Born Name

Parents

May 31 Allison Paige

Master Sgt. Alvin and Karrie

Irwin

2d Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

To announce your latest arrival, call the *Observer* at 456-5501/3241 or e-mail observer@barksdale.af.mil

Base Chapel Services

456-2111

Duty Chaplain for Emergencies: 456-2151



Catholic

Confession, Chapel Two, Saturday, 4:30 p.m.
Mass, Chapel Two, Saturday, 5:30 p.m.
Mass, Chapel Two, Sunday, 9 a.m.
Confraternity Christian Doctrine, Chapel Two, Sunday, 10 a.m.
Mass, Chapel One, Sunday, 11:30 a.m.

Protestant

The Coffee Shop, Saturday, Chapel Two Annex, 6 to 11 p.m. Traditional Communion Service, Chapel One, Sunday, 9 a.m. Sunday School, Chapel Two annex, Sunday, 9 a.m. Contemporary Praise, Chapel Two, Sunday, 10:30 a.m. Inspirational Gospel Service, Chapel Two, Sunday, Noon



Reservations required for all events.

Resumé class

A resumé preparation workshop is scheduled for Tuesday at the center.

Call 456-8400 for more information.

Babysitter's course

A babysitters training course for 11- to 15-year-olds is scheduled for June 23, 24, and 25 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the center. There is a \$10 fee for each student. Participants will receive a babysitter's handbook, babysitter's to-do checklist, babysitter's kit and bag, infant/child CPR certificate and a course completion certificate. Registration forms are available at the family support center and at the Red Cross office in Shreveport. The class size is limited to 24 students.

Electronic resumé class

The electronic resumé is different than a traditional paper resumé. Learn how to create a software-sensitive resumé in this class Wednesday from 2 to 4 p.m. in the center. Topics are scannable resumés, e-mailing a resumé, multimedia resumés, Internet job search rules and key work summaries.

Troops to teachers

A seminar is scheduled for Wednesday from 1 to 3 p.m. at the center for people thinking about a second career. Participants will have an understanding of the troops to teachers program to include function, eligibility and application information. The education office staff will discuss tuition assistance, Praxis test and VA policy on certification. The on-base teacher certification program is presented by Louisiana Tech University.

Single parent group

A single parents group meeting is scheduled for Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the center. Join other single parents and learn their secret to successful parenting. A light lunch will be served. Call the center for more information.

Protect yourself against West Nile

CAPT. ROYCE MOORE

2D MEDICAL SUPPORT SQUADRON

As the weather becomes more hot and humid and mosquitoes are more rampant, people should take precautions to protect themselves and their family members from West Nile Virus.

In 2002, Louisiana had more than its share of WNV cases. Public Health is working along with 2d Civil Engineer Squadron Entomology to prevent any cases this year at Barksdale. They will conduct various types of mosquito collection and testing.

The virus normally affects the elderly and the young, especially those with compromised immune systems. More severe cases may require supportive therapy, such as airway management, respiratory support and nursing care.

The risk for severe illness from mosquito bites is extremely rare. Even if people live in an area where positive WNV cases have been reported, they are not likely to get sick. For people who get bitten and actually become infected with WNV, less than one percent become severely ill.

Signs and symptoms of a WNV infection may appear three to 12 days following a bite from a mosquito infected with WNV. One should seek further medical care after being exposed

Symptoms

Mild infection

Fever, headache, body aches, skin rash, swollen lymph glands

More severe infection

High fever; migraine, neck stiffness; coma, convulsions; muscle weakness, paralysis; potentially fatal

to mosquito bites and experiencing any symptoms.

The Public Health office recommends these actions to reduce your WNV risk: Stay indoors at dawn and dusk; wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors; install or repair window and door screens so that mosquitoes cannot get indoors; spray clothing with repellents containing permethrin or DEET since mosquitoes may bite through thin clothing; apply insect repellent sparingly to exposed skin.

The appearance of certain dead birds or squirrels may indicate that the WNV is in the local area. To report a dead bird — usually crows or blue jays — or squirrel, call Public Health at 456-5226 or Entomology at 456-1814, or the local parish health unit so the animal can be tested.

For more WNV information, visit http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm.



Cajun Warrior Attitude

Catch it!

Hobbies: Designing hair, poetry, visiting friends and Bible study

What motivates my winning attitude: Encouragement from others

Favorite TV show: "Fear Factor"

Favorite movie: "Color Purple"

Favorite performer: Martin Lawrence

Favorite sports team: Houston Rockets

Favorite meal: Fried catfish, mashed potatoes and mixed vegetables

Favorite book: The Bible

I'm proudest of: Being a citizen of the

United States

People I admire the most: My mother and

father

My best asset is: My desire to help others

Pet peeve: People who lack initiative

Best day of my life: When I stepped on the plane in a deployed location and glanced back, heading home

What I like most about Barksdale: Bible study at Chapel Two



Unit: 2d Logistics Readiness Squadron

Hometown: Point Blank, Texas

Family: Mother, Measie; and father,

Donald

Job title: Customer service technician

Job description: Responsible for maintaining research records, provide customer assistance on all supply-related matters

Most rewarding job aspect: Sharing knowledge of my job with customers to enable them to be helped in a timely manner

Goals: Obtain a Community College of the Air Force degree in Logistics and a bachelor's degree in education and math



Senior Airman David Jackson/2d Bomb Wing Public Affairs
A Barksdale youth slides down the slide at the enlisted club pool. Children 13 to 17 years old must pass a swim test to come to the pool unaccompanied.

ls open for summer



Senior Airman Sarah Clark/Observer

(Above) Base children swim in the west pool. The west pool, by the enlisted club, is open Tuesdays through Fridays from 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 7 p.m. The north pool, by the officers club, is open Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 7 p.m. (Right) Christe Kordsmeie, 9, jumps in the pool. Christe is Army Staff Sgt. Jerry and Carol Kordsmeie's daughter. People are not allowed to bring coolers or outside food or drinks into the pool area except for food purchased at Uncle Louie's. People with an ID card can sponsor one person into the pool.



Senior Airman Sarah Clark/Observer



Today

7 p.m. — "Bulletproof Monk" PG-13 Chow Yun-Fat, Seann William Scott — For 60 years, a mysterious monk has traversed the globe to protect an ancient scroll. Now the monk must look for a new scrollkeeper.

Saturday

7 p.m. — "Holes" PG

Shia LaBeouf, Sigourney Weaver — A teenager, Stanley Yelnats, is sent to Camp Green Lake, a Texas detention camp, for a crime he didn't commit. There, he and the other boys are forced by the warden to dig holes as something of a "character-building

Sunday

7 p.m. — "Confidence" R

Edward Burns, Paul Giamatti — What Jake doesn't know might get him killed. A swindling job stealing money orchestrated by Jake and his gang goes wrong. When corpses start popping up, Jake knows it's only a matter of time

Friday, June 13

7 p.m. — "It Runs in the Family" PG-

Kirk Douglas, Michael Douglas — From Mitchell Gromberg to his son Alex and grandson Asher, everyone is trying to cope with life, and a distinctly different set of problems.

are subject Admission: Adults \$2.50 without notice



Items subject to change

TODAY
Lunch —Beef and corn pie, seafood newburg, veal steaks
Dinner — Corned beef, pot roast, pineapple chicken

SATURDAY

Brunch — Creole shrimp, baked chicken, meatballs Supper — Goulash, baked fish, barbecue chicken

SUNDAY

Brunch — Spareribs, chicken breast, oven-fried fish Supper — Steak, beef stir-fry, turkey nuggets

MONDAY
Lunch — Pot roast, baked stuffed fish, roast pork Dinner — Chili mac, beef cannelloni, fried chicken

TUESDAY

Lunch — Veal parmesan, teriyaki chicken, salmon Dinner — Meat loaf, country chicken, turkey

WEDNESDAY

Lunch — Barbecue ham, turkey and noodles, beef Dinner —Pork chops, barbecue spareribs, chicken

THURSDAY

Lunch — Cabbage rolls, fried catfish, baken chicken Dinner — Cornish hens, roast pork, jaegerschnizel

FRIDAY, June 13

Lunch — Swiss steak, baked chicken, stuffed peppers Dinner — Italian sausage, lasagna, spaghetti





Gator Park

Explore the Bayou Pierre Gator Park June 28 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Nachitoches park features hundreds of gators in their natural habitat. Specially designed feeding tubes allow children to feed the gators. Cost for the trip is \$10 for adults and \$7 for children under 12 and includes transportation and admission to the park.

Call equipment rental at 456-3426 for more information.

Pilot program

The Barksdale Aero Club is offering an orientation flight. Cost for the small aircraft flight is \$59 and will help people determine if flight training is for them

Call Mike Calvert at 456-8179 for more information.

Softball team

The base sports and fitness center is looking for women to play on a female base varsity softball team.

Call 456-4135 for more information.

Swimming lessons

Outdoor recreation is accepting registrations for this summer's Learn to Swim Program.

Applications can be submitted Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The cost is \$30 for the first child and \$25 for each additional child.

Call 456-3426 for more information.

Youth swim team

The Barksdale Bombers Youth Swim Team is looking for new members this year.

Each year the team competes in the Shreveport Parks and Recreation Summer Swim League events. Historically, about 900 children participate in these city-wide events.

Flag Lake Gate

Monday

Flag Lake Gate will remain closed on the weekends because of drilling operations on the east reservation. However, people can still access the reservation if they know the daily gate code, which can be obtained at the Capehart Shoppette, natural resources office and outdoor recreation.



Intramural Softball

Wednesday

Field one	Field one
6 p.m. – 2d OSS vs. NAVY	2d MG #2 vs. 2d MG #1
7 p.m. – MEPS vs. COBRA	7 p.m. – 8th AF vs. 2d CES
8 p.m 2d MSS vs. 49th TES	8 p.m. – 2d LRS vs. 2d SFS
9 p.m. – 2d MOS vs. PROP	9 p.m. – 2d MUNS vs. 11th BS
Field two	Field two
6 p.m. – 2d MG #2 vs. 2d CS	6 p.m. – 49th TES vs. NAVY
7 p.m. – 8th AF vs. 2d MUNS	7 p.m. – 2d SVS vs. COBRA
8 p.m. – 2d LRS vs. 2d MXS	8 p.m. – 2d MSS vs. MEPS
9 p.m. – 2d SFS vs. 11th BS	9 p.m. – 2d MOS vs. 2d OSS

May Fitness Month draws to a close, center continues to offer programs

SHANNON COLLINS

OBSERVER

Ready, set, get fit.

Throughout May, the Barksdale Fitness Center held various events to help airmen, soldiers and family members get fit.

From an opening and closing 5K run to a horseshoe and racquetball tournament to a health and fitness seminar, more than 250 military people and their family members pushed their endurance and proved their skill during the month-long activities.

Each year, the Air Force designates May as May Fitness Month.

"May is an appropriate time to highlight fitness to get more people involved and to reinforce the importance fitness has on our health and jobs," said Jim Dich, 2d Services Squadron, fitness center director. "We want to try to make fitness fun and to keep our people motivated."

Many people did not participate in the monthly events due to deployments, said Dich. Many others did not participate in the events but did attend the fitness center regularly for spinn classes, weight training, basketball, volleyball, racquetball and more.

Upcoming Events

A weekend warrior class, an intense 1.5 hour aerobic class takes place June 14 at 10 a.m.

A family fun walk and run takes place June 21 at 9 a.m.

"The center is the hub for their fitness needs and questions," said Dich. "We offer a variety of machines in cardio and strength to vary their workouts to make it fun and interesting."

The fitness center currently has three personal trainers on staff to direct fitness questions and exercise routines, and they also offer a year-round intramural program in sports for base squadrons to participate in to build both individual and team skills, added Dich.

"The fitness center is your focal point for all your fitness needs and questions. If we don't have the answers to help you, we have our friends at the health and wellness center we can refer you to," said Dich. "The fitness staff is here to help you meet your particular fitness needs."

For more information about the fitness center, call 456-4135.



A group of airmen and family members take off for a 5K run.



Shannon Collins/Observer

Army Capt. John Blankenhorn, 1-394th Training Support Battalion, Shreveport, pushes for first place in a 5K run with a time of 17:10. Blankenhorn is just one of the many soldiers, airmen and family members who participated in May Fitness Month events.

Intramural Softball		Team	W	L	Team	W	L	Team	W	L	
American League (West)			2d SFS #2 2d LRS	0 0	1 2	2d MSS 2d OSS	2	1 2	2d MUNS	0	6
							0				
Team	W	L				2d MOS	0	3	National League		
2d CES	4	0	National League	e (West)					2d COMM	6	0
2d MG	1	1	PROP Flight	` 2	1	Intramural Golf			2d MUNS #2	4	1
2d SFS	1	1	Navy	1	1	American League			49th TES	5	1
11th BS	0	1	MEPS	1	1	2d MOS	4	0	2d OSS	3	1
2d MXS	0	1	49th TES	1	1	917th	4	1	917th #2	3	1
			COBRA	0	1	2d MXS	3	1	2d SVS	2	1
American League (East)						2d LRS	3	1	2d CPTS	3	3
3th AF	1	0	National League	e (East)		2d CES	3	2	2d MSS	2	4
2d MUNS	2	1	OWS	` 1	0	8th AF	2	2	548th CTS	0	16
2d COMM	1	1	2d AMXS	1	0	2d MG	2	4			
2d MG #2	0	1	2d SVS	3	1	2d SFS	0	5	Standings as of V	Vedneso	lav